

INDEX

People	2
National News	3
Opinion	5
Youthbeat	6
Lifestyles	6
Entertainment	7
Business	8
Classified	9

Volume 12, Number 33

Serving New Jersey's African-American Community Since 1983

May 22 - May 28, 1996

INSIDE:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN
HEALTH CARE UN-
EQUAL

Page 3

KIRK FRANKLIN
BRINGS GOD AND
MUSIC

Page 7

BLACK COMPANIES HIT
\$13 BILLION IN '95 RE-
VENUES

Page 8

BODIES FOUND IN
PARK PROMPT CALL
FOR MORE POLICE

NEWARK—The shocking discovery, by fire fighters, of two bodies in Newark's Weequahic Park on Monday, May 6 has prompted Municipal Council President Donald Bradley to request increased police protection and security in the park area. The park is an Essex County facility which is supposed to be policed by Essex County police officers.

"Many of our residents and people from surrounding communities use Weequahic Park for a variety of activities year-round," said Councilman Bradley, from individual jogging to family outings and large community events. The fact that a person or persons could carry out such a gruesome act without being detected, although details are yet unclear, is very disconcerting," Bradley continued.

The councilman noted that because of drug and general crime problems which plague most communities today, resident safety and protection is critical.

Bradley stated he will request that the County Executive's Office take direct action to step up park police patrols to help prevent other such crimes.

See BODIES/page 9

LEGISLATION
APPROVED TO CRACK
DOWN ON UNDERAGE
DRINKING

TRENTON—The Assembly Transportation Committee has approved a measure sponsored by Assemblymen Anthony Imperato and Wilfredo Caraballo to issue distinctive colored driver's licenses for people under the legal drinking age, so bars and liquor stores can better identify minors.

"Sometimes it is difficult for a bartender in a crowded or dark-tiled bar to look and check the age and the date," Imperato (D-Hudson) said. "If the bar is crowded and busy, often the bartender could just miss it. This would make it very clear—all they'd have to do is look at the color and the large print saying when the person will be 21."

"We want to make liquor purchasing as

See UNDERAGE DRINKING/page 6

PAYNE ANNOUNCES
FUNDING FOR
COPS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, DC—Tenth District Congressman Donald Payne joined with the Clinton Administration in announcing that New Jersey communities will receive over \$37.6 million for a new round of federal grants under the COPS (Community Oriented Policing Services) program. The city of Newark will receive \$6.9 million to hire 92 police officers.

In announcing the grants, Payne said, "Protecting our communities against crime must remain one of our top priorities. These funds will enable police officers to better serve the residents of Newark and other New Jersey communities as we work to become safer streets and neighborhoods."

The COPS crime-fighting plan, which stresses community policing strategies as a method of effectively addressing the problems of violence in local communities, has been one of the key initiatives of the Clinton Administration. Last year, the COPS office launched its Youth Firearms Violence Initiative, which targeted enforcement strategies against the rise of youth firearms violence. That initiative has resulted in the successful seizure of firearms and a reduction in drive-by shootings.

Payne joined other members of the New Jersey delegation in opposing efforts by the Republican-controlled Congress to eliminate the COPS program during consideration of the Crime Bill last year.

Cities host early childhood education symposium



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CHARITY CARE BILL SIGNED
New Jersey Hospitals get \$716M for uninsured

Gov. Richard Codevilla is a constant fighter for the acceptance of the new charity care bill.

TRENTON (AP)—New Jersey's long legislative logjam over how to pay for hospital charity care ended Thursday.

Gov. Christie Whitman signed a charity care bill late Thursday that will provide hospitals \$716 million over two years. The bill signing took less than an hour after the state senate approved the measure.

The bill takes most of that money from unemployment taxes paid by business and workers. It also calls for a managed care network for charity care cases to help reduce costs.

Whitman also signed a companion bill to extend unemployment benefits by 13 weeks. That bill, which would cost the fund \$350 million, was designed to gain support from organized labor, which has opposed tapping unemployment taxes.

"These are good pieces of legislation," Whitman said. "This will give people of the state a level of comfort and satisfaction that their medical needs will be met. This has solved one immediate problem. It also looks to the future."

Charity care pays for those without health insurance. Most of those who need charity care have jobs. It does not cover people on welfare, who receive health care through Medicaid.

The Senate vote was 32-7, with nine Democrats joining 23 Republicans. One Republican lawmaker was not present. The Assembly passed the bill May 6.

"It's been a long, rocky road,"

said Sen. Robert Littell, R-Franklin Borough, Sussex County, the bill's sponsor. "It's certainly been an elusive goal. But this is important, a bill to help those who are too poor to have health insurance. And it will help hospitals."

The charity care issue had dominated Statehouse politics for five months as Republican lawmakers haggled with Whitman over a solution. Many lawmakers said they weren't happy with the final product, but wanted the issue to be resolved, especially since hospitals haven't received charity care payments since January. Urban hospitals were the hardest hit because they get the most charity care.

See CHARITY CARE BILL/page 10



Gov. Whitman wanted to sign the bill since December, but her hands were tied because the House Senate would not vote on it.

Local heroes awarded for valor

MOUNTAINSIDE—"Our freedom would be in jeopardy if it weren't for the men and women of our police and firefighter forces," said Steven D. McDonald, guest speaker at The Two Hundred Club's Annual 1996 Value Awards Luncheon.

McDonald, a New York City police officer, spoke in the line of duty in Central Park on July 12, 1986, spoke softly with the aid of a respirator.

Currently a detective investigator, he addressed the crowd of over 380 concerned citizens of The Two Hundred Club who gather annually to honor and reward uniformed men and women of Union County's public safety departments.

"It takes all of us—we couldn't hire enough police, law enforcement and firefighters to protect every body—that's why The Two Hundred

Club is so important," said McDonald. "I find it to be a humbling experience to be on the same stage as the Two Hundred Club Valor Award recipients," he said, referring to the nine police officers and firefighters being honored for their acts of valor and courage above and beyond the call of duty.

This year's Valor Award recipients were Garwood Police Officer Thomas W. Mericle who rescued a woman from her automobile as it was swept by a flood into a nearby brook, where she was about to be pulled under a bridge. The 45-year-old woman would most likely have drowned if not for Officer Mericle's rescue.

Seven members of the Plainfield Fire Department were honored for their bravery during two incidents that occurred in December, 1995. At the first

fire, Lieutenants Carlton Crawley, Henry Robinson and Firefighter Jeffrey Courtney entered a burning house through a window on the roof and recovered two children through heavy smoke and dangerous flash fire conditions.

At another fire, similar in nature, Firefighters Isaac Quarles and William O'Neal located children in a second story bedroom, but before they were able to recover the children, their ladder was enveloped with flames forcing them to jump.

The two firefighters were then joined by Firefighter Hazona Bullock and replaced the ladder and searched and recovered one child. Lieutenant Michael McCue and Lieutenant Crawley along with Firefighter Courtney entered a rear bedroom win-



(Back Row, l-r) Firefighter Isaac Quarles, Lt. Henry Robinson, Lt. Michael McCue, Lt. Carlton Crawley, and Officer James J. Malone, Jr. (Front Row, l-r) Officer Thomas W. Mericle, Firefighter William F. O'Neal, Firefighter Jeffrey Courtney, and Firefighter Hazona Bullock.

See HEROES/page 10

Rutgers-Camden hosts South
African provincial premier

Pictured are (l to r) Mrs. Dideka Mhlaba, State Senator Wayne Bryant, Camden, Premier Raymond Mphahlele, Eastern Cape Province of South Africa, and New Jersey State Senator Commissioner Quaberto Medina, Camden, after Premier Mphahlele and Commissioner Medina signed a memorandum of agreement for economic cooperation at the State House in Trenton.

By Avery Grant

CAMDEN—The newly formed Rutgers-Camden University/Council for Southern Africa sought to foster economic development opportunities for Camden and New Jersey by hosting a two-day visit by the premier and his delegation from the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa.

Premier Raymond Mphahlele and his delegation met with New Jersey State Commerce Commissioner Quaberto Medina, signed a memorandum of understanding for economic cooperation at the State House in Trenton. They also met with Governor Whitman while at the State House.

See AFRICAN PROVINCIAL/page 3

Results of state's National
Dialogue on Poverty

PLAINFIELD—Plainfield Mayor Mark A. Fury recently announced the results of New Jersey's first National Dialogue on Poverty (NDP). New Jersey has 24 Public and Private CAA's, all of which will be conducting NDP's before June 30, 1996. Organized by the National Association of Community Action Agencies (NACAA), the NDP is sponsoring an unprecedented series of local dialogues involving more than half of the country's CAA's and hundreds of thousands of people.

Rick Smiley, Assistant Director of Plainfield Action Services and Plainfield's NDP Facilitator, said that "about 500 CAA's will conduct a total of 3,000 local dialogues in at least 49 states plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and U.S. territories." "Our purpose," Smiley said, "is to examine eight critical areas to determine the quality of life for low-income people in the community."

Among the areas examined were: Housing and Basic Needs; Health; Income and Work; Education; Family Development; Crime; Citizenship; Anti-discrimination and Inclusiveness. Dialogue participants ranked three of the areas as priorities.

Plainfield Action Services April

24th Dialogue brought together a cross section of society that normally are not involved in activities together. The 59 attendees included the homeless, religious leaders, community activists, professionals who work with the poor, the affluent and general public.

"A significant segment of the population, our youth, were not included in this dialogue," Smiley said, "but we are planning another dialogue for their input, which we value, before the June 30th end of this activity." The dialogue focused attention on the plight of the poor.

Of the 38 dialogue attendees living in poverty, 15 million are children:

Income for the top 5 percent of households rose in 1994 by more than \$7,000 while income for the bottom fifth declined by 7.5 percent;

Since 1983, the poverty rate for families with children has risen to more than 11 percent from about 8 percent in the 1970s; and

In 1994, more than 14 percent of Americans lived in poverty. This rate remains historically high, even during a time of economic recovery and expansion. According to Fury, "We need a new vision that is based on our

true values and our priorities about what really is important. We've been too busy assessing blame to look at what really causes people to live in poverty and what those lives are really like..."

Of 59 Dialogue attendees, 56 turned in completed surveys. The three highest rankings among the eight areas were:

1. Income and Work—Increase numbers of full-time jobs with wages adequate to support the individual and offering health insurance and other benefits;

2. Housing and Basic Increase percentage of citizens who have the basic needs met adequate clothing, food and shelter

3. Housing and Basic Needs Increase percentage of housing units that are physically safe and affordable; and Education—Increase number of adults who have basic skills in reading, math and communication.

The results of Plainfield's Dialogue will be forwarded to the Annual Conference of the NACAA in September. To have your opinion counted contact Rick Smiley at PAS, 908-753-3519. Materials are also available in Spanish.

Newark property revaluation impact study completed

NEWARK—The Municipal Council Tax Abatement Committee of Newark, headed by Councilman At-Large Donald Tucker, recently met to review and discuss the completed results of a critical study on property revaluation in the city of Newark.

The study completed by Appraiser William Merdinger was scheduled for release on May 21, said Tucker, and will show the actual tax dollar impact revaluation would have on all properties within the city, including vacant land, residential single and multiple family dwellings, commercial and industrial properties.

Utilizing the detailed report infor-

mation and related facts, Tucker said that community meetings will be held throughout the city's wards to inform and discuss specific report findings and planned course of action by the Municipal Council with Newark residents. In addition to revaluation data, the community meetings will also serve as a forum to update residents and taxpayers on tax abatement within the city.

Tax abated units in the city would not be affected by revaluation for the duration of their approved abatement period. Advance notice of these meetings will be published and distributed to all area residents.

Councilman Tucker said an additional property classification and assessment report, completed by Joe Faccione of Samuel S. Klein & Co., has provided a tax impact breakdown by ward, while Merdinger's report will break each of the city's wards into three areas and it will offer special targeted analysis dealing with properties throughout the city.

Such analysis will allow individual taxpayers to understand how they would be specifically affected by revaluation, which the Councilman said will cause tax rates to skyrocket for some, greatly increased for others and become lower for some. However, most

Council members agree that revaluation in Newark would generally prove to be financially devastating for the city's taxpayers residents.

Faccione's report indicates, as well, the increased financial burden taxpayers would shoulder as a result of the city's unusual status with 77 percent of the property within the borders being tax exempt and paying 0 percent in property taxes, which means that the remaining 23 percent of property owners pay all the property taxes.

Currently, property tax data outlined by Faccione indicates that the 23 percent of property owners who pay the city's property taxes own a collec-

tive total of 38,797 property items in the city which have a total cumulative assessment value of \$872,907,700 (about \$900 million). In contrast, 77 percent of tax exempt properties within the city total 48,335 items and have an assessment value of \$4,257,095,820 (or roughly 4 and a quarter billion dollars).

According to Bradley, who is getting this "property tax free" ride? Property taxes belonging to the report Authority, federal, state, and county government; universities, colleges, art and cultural institutions; prisons and halfway houses.

See REVALUATION IMPACT/page 10

PEOPLE

Community Calendar

THURSDAY, MAY 22

NEW YORK—Spirit Cruises presents its 1996 Gospel Cruise Series aboard the Spirit of New York and Spirit of New Jersey. For more info call 212-727-7768 or 201-867-6201.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

CRANFORD—"Investing for your future" a free workshop to learn the benefits of developing an investment plan at Cranford Public Library at 7:15 p.m. For more info call Dean Witter at 1-800-347-5018.

THURSDAY, MAY 23

SEWELL—Free seminar on Joint Insurance Funds for Employee Health or Term Life Insurance at Gloucester Institute of Technology from 7 to 8 p.m. For more info call 609-346-2500.

FRIDAY, MAY 24

EAST ORANGE—The Division of Senior Citizens celebrates "Older Adult Month" with an annual luncheon at Mayfair Farms at 11 a.m. For more info call 201-286-5226.

EAST RUTHERFORD—Celebrate the best of New Jersey at the Meadowlands Racetrack with New Jersey Night at the Races 6 to 10 p.m. For more info call 201-THE BIG M.

MAY 24 TO 26

NEW YORK—Brooklyn Academy of Music presents DanceAfrica '96, the largest festival of African and African-American dance in the U.S. For more info call 718-636-4129.

SATURDAY, MAY 25

EAST RUTHERFORD—Free annual Open House at the Meadowlands Racetrack from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more info call 201-THE BIG M.

NEW BRUNSWICK—BCA Books hosts an appearance by Reverend Al Sharpton at Crozer's at 5 p.m. For more info call

908-249-5560.

THURSDAY, MAY 27

NEWARK—New Community Corporation presents their first exhibition outside South Africa: "South African Pinmaking and Etching: Selections from the Artist Proel Studio" at The Priory Altium. For more info call 201-659-7655.

MONDAY, MAY 27

EAST RUTHERFORD—Celebrate Memorial Day at the Meadowlands Racetrack. Afternoon race card starts at 1:10 p.m. The Tim Galla Band performs 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Paddock Park, and more. For more info call 201-THE BIG M.

MILLINGTON—The Union County Kennel Club, Inc. will hold its 76th All-Breed Dog Show and Obedience Trial at Bonnie Bree Educational Center from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-854-4398 or 908-654-5671.

EAST ORANGE—Annual Memorial Day Parade beginning at 9 a.m. starting at Central and South Arlington Avenues. For more info call 201-414-4141.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

NORTH BRUNSWICK—Free seminar on Joint Insurance Funds for Employee Health or Term Life Insurance at North Brunswick High School from 7 to 9 p.m. For more info call 908-446-5090.

WESTFIELD—The May Open House at the New Union County "One Stop" Customer Information Center from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more info call 908-518-9000.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

EAST BRUNSWICK—NJN celebrates its 25th broadcast anniversary with a gala event at the Brunswick Hilton. Special guest and performers include Rolanda Watts and Leslie Uggams. For more info call 609-777-5007.

Newark honors WWII seamen



NEWARK—Mayor Sharpe James (r) addresses an audience during a recent ceremony in the Newark City Hall Rotunda, honoring the men of the "USS Mason Destroyer Escort 529," the first predominantly African-American naval vessel, for their bravery during World War II. The Mayor presented a proclamation to the members of the USS Mason DE 529 Association (l-r) Horace Banks, Winfrey Roberts, Vice Chairman Lorenzo Dufau and Chairman James N. Graham, a group comprised of former USS Mason crewmen. A number of the original crew hailed from Newark and New Jersey. Recognizing the USS Mason's legacy of knocking down racial barriers, the ceremony also commemorated the anniversary of the vessel's commissioning and paid tribute to the crew's exemplary military service. Although damaged by a fierce storm while on a WWII mission, the crew of the USS Mason DE 529 was able to make emergency repairs to their vessel and heroically guide several ships into the safe harbor of Falmouth, England. In 1994, under the direction of the Clinton Administration, Secretary of the Navy John Dalton finally honored the men of the USS Mason.

Photo by William Roman.

City News
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NJIT students get National scholarships



(Pictured l-r) New Jersey Institute of Technology students Huy-Tran D. Nguyen of Parapany, Laurent Simon of Orange, Manuel deAlmeida of Newark and Zolt G. Horvath of Pompton Lakes display their certificates for scholarships contributed by the National Starch and Chemical Company during NJIT's Department of Chemical Engineering, Chemistry and Environmental Science Merit Awards Ceremony. The students are joined by Professor Basil Baltz (l). National Starch Scholarships are presented to students for outstanding achievement in chemical engineering.

Tito Puento to be honored by Bloomfield College

BLOOMFIELD—Four-time Grammy winner Tito Puento will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at Bloomfield College's 123rd Commencement on Thursday, May 23. Internationally acclaimed as the "King of Latin Music," Tito Puento has recorded more than 100 albums, has collaborated with jazz greats such as Buddy Morrow and Woody Herman, and has even added acting to his list of accomplishments with appearances on *The Cosby Show*, *The Mambos* and *Radio Days*.



Rutgers-Newark professor featured on PBS

NEWARK—Rutgers University-Newark Professor and Newark resident Dr. Clement Price (r) talks one-on-one with host Steve Adubato (l), on *Caucus: New Jersey*. The interview focuses on Dr. Price's long and distinguished career as a leading authority on African-American history and race relations in New Jersey. The program is part of a special *Caucus: New Jersey* series called *Caucus Up Close*, which features in-depth discussions with some of the Garden State's most compelling personalities. Dr. Price's *Caucus Up Close* appearance will air on Saturday, May 25 at 12:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 26 at 6:30 a.m. on Channel 13 and on Saturday, May 25 at 1:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 26 at 9 a.m. on NJN. Check your local listings. Funding for this series has been provided by The Medical Society of New Jersey, Johnson & Johnson, JCP&L, Bell Atlantic and First Union Bank.

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Highway 1 and Collins Road
Highway 1 and Collins Road

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200 Irvington Avenue
200 Irvington Avenue

LIVINGSTON:
600 South Livingston Avenue
600 South Livingston Avenue
600 South Livingston Avenue

LONG BRANCH:
100 Long Branch
100 Long Branch
100 Long Branch

NAVY:
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200 Navy Avenue
200 Navy Avenue

PLAINFIELD:
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100 Plainfield Avenue

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The Mall Shopping Center
The Mall Shopping Center

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NATION

National News
at a GlanceCLINTON, MANDELA
DISCUSS RIGHTS
SITUATION IN NIGERIA

South African President Nelson Mandela and President Clinton recently discussed the "deteriorating human rights situation" in Nigeria during a 10-minute telephone conversation. South African education reform was also a topic of discussion. The two talked about "how they could work together to help move Nigeria toward respect for democracy, the rule of law and human rights," and Clinton told Mandela that America would support him in any way that it could in Mandela's education reform efforts. White House spokesman James Felt told reporters. He said the two leaders did not discuss Deputy President F.W. de Klerk's pulling the National Party out of South Africa's ruling coalition or the country's new constitution. —WASHINGTON, DC

MORTGAGE CORP. PAYS
\$4 MILLION IN
DISCRIMINATION SUIT
SETTLEMENT

The U.S. Justice Department recently reported that a mortgage company subsidiary of Fleet Financial Group will pay a \$4 million settlement after the department sued it for allegedly charging African Americans and Hispanics higher prices for home mortgage loans in New York State and New Jersey than comparably qualified whites. In the complaint, filed with the agreement in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, the department alleged that the two branches of the Fleet Mortgage Corp. engaged in a pattern of discrimination in the pricing of home mortgage loans. It claimed that the two branches, located in Westbury, NY and Woodbridge, NJ, violated the Fair Housing Act and the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. Under the agreement, Fleet will establish a \$3.8 million fund to compensate approximately 600 victims, as well as spend \$200,000 for community outreach and implement a new monitoring and oversight system.

—BROOKLYN, NY
SIMPSON RETURNS
FROM GREAT BRITAIN
AFTER TESTING IMAGE
OVERSEAS

O.J. Simpson, burdened with a stack of legal bills from the wrongful death lawsuit filed against him, recently returned from a two-day "O.J. In the U.K." tour of Great Britain. He went to try to get commercial endorsements. Arriving to cheers and jeers, he appeared on a television program and spoke at the Oxford Union debating society. Sources close to Simpson told the Associated Press he is interested in touring other areas overseas, including Japan. His overseas visits may be the only way for him to cash in on his notorious celebrity. Two of his old football trophies were not bid on at a recent New York auction of sports collectibles. Simpson's civil trial begins in four months.

—UNITED KINGDOM
STUDY: BLACK WOMEN'S
LUNGS MOST
SERIOUSLY INJURED BY
SMOKING

The lungs of black women smokers are the prime targets for damage via smoking, according to a new study. The report, delivered at a recent joint meeting of the American Thoracic Society and the American Lung Association in New Orleans, also states that blacks do not regain some breathing capacity when they stop, unlike whites. More than 27,000 industrial workers in 15 states were involved in the study.

—NEW ORLEANS, LA

Health summit proves African-American healthcare unequal

Nationally syndicated television special presents the facts

WASHINGTON, DC—"There is a disparity of care being received in the African-American community," said Dr. Henry W. Foster, senior advisor to President Clinton on Teen-Aged Pregnancy Reduction & Youth Issues. Foster's remarks capitalized the concerns expressed by the distinguished panel of leading African-American health care specialists who recently participated in "African-American Health Summit," a special taping of America's Black Forum in association with the National Medical Fellowship.

Sponsored by AT&T, the one-hour summit will air nationally on May 26 and is expected to reach 70 markets. The program was hosted by broadcasters Julian Bond and Janet Langhart. The town meeting's panel discussion was moderated by Harvard Law School Professor Charles J. Ogletree, Jr.

Speaking candidly about the variety of health hazards African Americans face, the panelists cited cardiovascular disease as the top killer of African Americans, but suggested that the real disease killing African Americans is economic poverty and poverty of information.

"Attitudinal barriers," like fatalism and fear, were also described as obstacles to effective health training and preventive care for African Americans.

"These attitudes must be broken down in order for the community to be effectively serviced," said Dr. Foster.

"Black people feel mistreated in terms of healthcare," cited Dr. Abdul Alim Muhammad, Director of the Abundant Life Clinic HIV Alternative Treatment Group. "They distrust doctors unless they can identify with them."

The panel of experts, in addition to

Dr. Foster and Dr. Muhammad, included Dr. Lonnie Bristow, the current and first African-American president of the American Medical Association; Virginia Davis Lloyd, M.D., MPH, branch director for the Georgia Dept. of Human Resources, Division of Public Health; Floyd J. Malveaux, M.D., Ph.D., dean of the Howard University College of Medicine; Vivian Pinn, M.D., director of the Office of Research on Women's Health, NIH; Mark Smith, M.D., executive vice president of the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation; Betty Smith Williams, M.D., PH, RN, FAAN, president of the National Black Nurses Association; Levi Watkins, Jr., M.D., associate dean of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Johns Hopkins Hospital; and George Strain, medical correspondent for ABC News.



Panelists at the African-American Health Summit pictured, (l-r) Dr. Muhammad, Dr. Williams, Mr. Strain, Dr. Lloyd, Dr. Bristow, Dr. Pinn, Dr. Foster, Dr. Watkins, and Dr. Smith.

Photo by Barbara Hill

The Bethune-DuBois Fund honors trail blazers of excellence

WASHINGTON, DC—A galaxy of stars set the Capital City aglow during the 11th Annual Bethune-DuBois Awards Dinner, the largest ever, at the Sheraton Washington Hotel.

These sparkling stars were post-author, Dr. Maya Angelou, syndicated columnist, Mr. Carl T. Rowan, Federal Judge Damon J. Keith, Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, Mrs. Gloria T. Johnson, the highest ranking African American woman in the labor movement, and Ms. Skylar Byrd, a high school student who received a perfect score on her Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

Presenting awards to the honorees were another array of stars, including National Council of Negro Women's President, Dr. Dorothy I. Height, who described in eloquent terms the poetic magnificence of Dr. Maya Angelou; NAACP Board Chair, Mrs. Myrtle Evers-Williams told the audience how Carl Rowan helped to save the NAACP through courageous exposure in his syndicated column; Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary praised Skylar Byrd for her scholastic excellence; AFL-CIO President John Sweeney lauded Gloria Johnson as a heroine and pioneer of labor movements; U.S. Senator Paul Simon of Illinois applauded Congresswoman Collins for being a great defender of civil and human rights and William Brooks, vice president of General Motors spoke about the historic circuit court decisions of Judge Keith. Pioneers were honored by pioneers.



Pictured at the Bethune-DuBois Fund awards dinner are (l-r) C. Delores Tucker, Post Maya Angelou, Honoree Dr. Dorothy Height, Eagle Award Nominee, Fergusson Evans, Esq.; William Brooks, VP corporate affairs GM; and Fund chair Jesse Hill.

Photo courtesy of NNPA.

The occasion was the 11th Annual Bethune-DuBois Fund Awards Dinner, hosted by Dr. C. Delores Tucker, president-founder of the Fund. A black-tie crowd of more than 1,000 persons witnessed this extraordinary event.

Adding to the luster of the evening was the Tony Awards winning actress and multi-talented vocalist, Melba Moore, who recently starred in the Broadway production, *Les Miserables*. The Union Temple Youth Choir uplifted the audience with selections from their album, *God Reigns*, and the Ministers of Music was on hand to render a "Song of Benediction".

The capturing the spirit of the evening, Dr. Tucker said, "The evening demonstrated that the legacy and spirit of Mary McLeod Bethune and W.E.B. DuBois is still an enduring influence in our lives."

The Bethune-DuBois Fund sponsors such programs as a summer camp program, which stresses spiritual and academic development, and a youth entrepreneurship program that identifies youth who possess the positive qualities of an entrepreneur.

Most recently, Dr. Tucker announced the Bethune-DuBois Sheraton Washington Hotel Management Internship, encouraging youth

SEE BETHUNE-DUBOIS FUND PAGE 10

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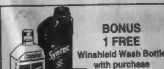
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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Funding today, what about tomorrow?

After six long months of politics, disagreeing and arguments, New Jersey's legislature and Governor Christine Whitman have finally approved a plan to fund charity care. This lovely new bill will provide hospitals with over \$700 million dollars for the next two years.

Yet as hospitals have a sigh of relief from fear of cutting the program and continued layoffs, they prepare themselves for the fact that the problems of finding permanent funding are not gone. In two years, hospitals and government will find themselves in the same predicament they have been for the past six months if they do not prepare to find a more permanent solution.

That is not to say that this solution itself is perfect. Charity care bill A-1532, while providing over \$700 million dollars to hospitals, diverts \$660 million from unemployment taxes (robbing Peter to pay Paul?) bringing much criticism from business and workers.

Despite the controversies of where the money comes from the main focus of all involved—government, hospitals, insurance companies and patients, should be where it will come from in two years from now. It is clear that any continued use of funding from unemployment taxes will be severely opposed.

Starting today, Governor Whitman, the legislature and hospitals need to get together and appoint a group to look for the answer. Without any early preparation, research and decisions two years from now, we may be feeling an eerie sense of déjà vu.

THE PASTOR'S WORD

The voters always have the last word

by Rev. Reginald Jackson

On last Tuesday the voters of Orange went to the polls and elected a new mayor, as well as two new councilpersons. They also re-elected one council incumbent while defeating another. The election of a new mayor brings to an end the administration of Mayor Robert Brown.

Mayor Brown is the first mayor of Orange, at least in modern times, to serve two successive terms. This, in itself, was an accomplishment.

The new mayor of Orange will be Mr. Mims Hackett, at present, a councilman in the city. Mr. Hackett is a key, very sincere, hard working man who will do the city well. He is sensitive and genuinely cares for people. His victory is a victory for the

people.

It was interesting to read and hear the reactions to Mr. Hackett's victory and Robert Brown's defeat. Most of the pundits and reporters considered Mr. Hackett's victory an upset. This was most surprising, because for many, the upset would have been if Mr. Hackett lost. For it was clear that the people felt there was a need for a change.

We celebrate the victory of Mims Hackett. For it was a victory not just for him but it was also a victory for truth, honesty, hard work and confirmation that doing the right thing has its rewards.

Mr. Hackett was bombarded with a well-informed, negative campaign that labeled him a convict, a liar and accomplished nothing in eight years on the

city council. It even went so far as to attack his personal life with disjunct allegations. But the voters of Orange knew better and voted intelligently.

Yet, while we celebrate Mr. Hackett's victory, we do not rejoice in Bob Brown's defeat. In fact his defeat saddens us. For some of us were among the first to support Bob Brown when he ran for mayor, when he was the underdog, when the powers that be were against him.

When the politicians who embrace him now, wouldn't help him, campaign for him, wouldn't do anything for him. We remember when all Bob Brown had was the people in Orange. He won the first time and he won the second time and for the next five years he made Orange a very good mayor. We

boasted about our mayor. He was sensitive, he was accessible, he was with the people.

But then he became politically aligned with some of the same forces that did not support him when he first ran. Forces whose own politics is rooted in the quest for personal power and not public service. Who demand that you agree with them or everything and who are vindictive if you don't.

The Bob Brown who was defeated on Tuesday is not the Bob Brown who we elected eight years ago and we are genuinely sad. In fact, we hope the Bob Brown of eight years ago re-emerges.

We congratulate Mayor-elect Hackett and the newly elected council members and look forward to working with them on behalf of the citizens of Orange.

Bob Dole, part of Washington's gridlock

by Sharon Khadijah Vincent

Bob Dole should have resigned from the Senate a long time ago. He should have resigned not because he wants to concentrate on his presidential campaign, or because he needed something to use as a political gimmick to bolster his sagging poll numbers.

Bob Dole should not resign because he has run out of ideas; he is part of the gridlock problem in Washington. Many believe he has served his time well, and it's time he moves on.

It's amazing to listen to the spin from the political pundits about Bob Dole's decision to resign from the Senate. Some called it a "dramatic move," others called it "shocking," and a few even said it was a "brilliant move on Dole's part." If you believe these same pundits are right when they say that Dole's campaign has stalled, and has failed to interest and excite the electorate about his candidacy because he is devoid of ideas, and hasn't been able to give viable compelling reasons as to why he should be elected President of the United States, does it even matter why he resigned?

Supposedly, Bob Dole had hoped to use his role as Republican Majority Leader in the Senate as a base to ignite his presidential campaign. Unfortunately for Dole, the Republican's so-called Contract with America has proven to be a big bomb with the American people.

The mean spirited, callous, arrogant, racist, and extremist attitudes, behaviors and actions displayed before the entire nation by the likes of Newt Gingrich, Alfonse D'Amato, Jesse Helms, Strom Thurmond, Dick Army and Bob Dole himself, have turned off many people. The realization of who really benefits under the Republican's Contract has been unveiled. It's certainly not children, working people in general, women, oppressed nationalities, etc.

Bob Dole found himself running to the left of the extreme right in his own party. It has been interesting to watch Dole attempting to position himself as this moderate figure in the Republican party who is interested in uniting all the people, regardless of race, class or gender. Compared to a Pat Buchanan he appears to be a far

better choice, but, the electorate shouldn't be fooled. Bob Dole has a record. In fact, after 35 years in office, 27 of those years served in the Senate, he has a long record to look at and review. African Americans won't find any comfort in Bob Dole's voting record. Women won't find much better, and workers certainly won't have anything to smile about.

Republicans hope that since Bob Dole will now be available to travel more, and devote full time to his presidential campaign, he'll gain support and close the gap in the polls between himself and President Clinton. Undoubtedly, there will be a tight race, the media need their news stories will "make" it tighten up.

Republicans also hope that by creating some distance between Dole and the unpopular Congress, particularly Newt, he'll be able to put some life into his campaign. Ironically, the present strategy is for Dole to move away from the conservative Republican agenda. The American people are supposed to feel better about Dole, even though he represents, more than any other current figure in Congress today, the total and absolute hypocrisy of some of the main tenets in the Contract with America. The most glaring contradiction being, the one about supporting term limits. If this was a reality, Bob Dole should have resigned a long, long time ago.

After the focus of attention moves away from this publicity stunt, hopefully, it will allow the candidate himself, if Dole, after having served 35 years in office hasn't been able to articulate to the American people any compelling reasons as to why he should be President of the United States how does his resignation from the Senate change this sad fact?

His belief that people should vote for him because he fought and was wounded in the war, and has been in political office for all these years, simply aren't compelling reasons to vote for him. He has no message, and he hasn't put forth a vision to lead this country into the 21st century. He doesn't communicate or come across very well in public forums. Talking to and communicating your ideas and message to regular people, just isn't the same as standing at the podium talking to your buddies and friends on the Senate floor. He'll have to dramatically improve his communication skills, if he hope to pick up widespread support.

Bob Dole said in his resignation speech that, "My time to leave this office has come. I will seek the presidency with nothing to fall back on but the judgment of the people and nowhere to go but the White House or home." After 35 years of public service already rendered, it just might be time for Dole to stay home.

No such thing as 'colorblind' adoption

by Askia Muhammad



It amazes me how the rhetoric of the "colorblind society" has come to dominate so many national policy debates. Now, it's colorblind adoption.

House Ways and Means Committee members engaged in a sharp debate recently over language that would have barred adoption agencies from taking race into account when placing a child for adoption. Republican supporters of the provision complain that many states now make race a major factor in considering adoption placements. That leaves many children in foster homes because often no adoptive parents of the same race are available.

The tragedy is that there are tens of thousands of black and other non-white children awaiting adoption.

Representative Charles Rangel, a Democrat who represents New York's Harlem, clashed with Kentucky Republican Jim Bunning and others when he argued that the "first come, first served" method of allocating children for adoption like Thomas Hobson used to issue horses at his English livery stable would not always be best for the children involved.

Mr. Rangel really got the administration piling when he suggested that his colleagues would be up in arms if

a member of the Nation of Islam tried to adopt a Jewish child. Mr. Bunning, for his part, is the grandfather of one adoptive child who is African American, and another who is Korean.

Republican leaders should have been listening last October at the Million Man March, when the question of 25,000 Black children needing adoptive homes was loudly addressed. By January, that number had been decreased by 22,500 as conscientious men and women stepped forward to do right by their "brothers and sisters."

It's ironic that this legislation is sponsored by Republican Susan Molinari, who is at home in New York, about to give birth herself. The irony is that 92 years ago, New York's Founding Hospital attempted to address the orphaning problem of finding homes for orphans in its care, by sending 40, mostly blond and blue-eyed 2 to 5-year olds to Arizona to be adopted by mostly Mexican families.

Well, the priest and nuns who transported the children, were nearly lynched by angry whites in Clifton, Arizona, for appearing to sell white children to (in the words of a local newspaper) "the lowest type of Mexican laborers."

Children are not commodities to be traded and bartered for like pieces of furniture. Nor are they pets who will be loyal, quiet sources of unconditional love for their "owners." Even adopted children have personalities, have souls, and (dare I say) birthrights. While they deserve loving homes to grow up in, one day they do

become inquiring adults who invariably want to know who they are.

I am reminded of the parable I heard Philadelphia educator Edward Robinson tell a group of teenagers. It was about a bird named Tom who was being brought up in a chicken farm. Tom—really an eagle—was self-conscious a bird his different appearance and un-chicken-like mannerisms, until "Turk," an old eagle spotted him in the barnyard and told him that he could fly.

Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran said it very eloquently, "Your children are not your children. They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself. They come through you but not from you, and though they are with you yet they belong not to you. You may give them your love but not your thoughts, for they have their own thoughts; you may house their bodies but not their souls, for their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams."

Like Congress member Rangel and the thousands of black men who have taken steps to adopt children since the Million Man March, I would rather see black children in black homes. Still, and Mr. Rangel and Mr. Bunning and Mrs. Molinari agree about this, it is better for a child to be adopted by any loving family than to stay one more day in foster care.

Too often though, modern conservatives in their zeal to appear "colorblind," act like they are just plain blind.

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City News is published weekly by City News Publishing Company, PO Box 1774, 144 North Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07060. Phone 908-754-3400, Fax 753-1016.

YOUTHBEAT

Kids Kalendar

THRU MAY 30
NEWARK—The Newark Public Schools After-School Youth Development Program is offering free SAT preparatory sessions on Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at all of the high schools from 2:45 to 4:45 p.m. For more info call Joseph Placide at 201-733-7338.

THRU MAY 31
MONMOUTH—Beginner Karate classes for kids ages 10, scheduled by Monmouth County Park System, to be held at Sea Bright Recreation Center from 3:30 to 5 p.m. For more info call 908-242-4000.

THURSDAY, MAY 23
NEW BRUNSWICK—New Jersey State Bar Foundation and New Jersey Network presents Kids' Court, a program to educate students and teachers about the legal process at 1 p.m. For more info call NJM at 1-800-323-8852.

FRIDAY, MAY 24
ELIZABETH—The Elizabeth Branch YMCA of Eastern Union County will be holding a Teen Night Party from 8 p.m. to midnight for teens 13 to 17. For more info call Cynthia Truett at 908-355-3622.

TUESDAY, MAY 28
NEW BRUNSWICK—The New Jersey State Bar Association Young Lawyers Division essay contest deadline. For more info call 908-249-5000.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication.

Evans Anyanwu receives Coca-Cola scholarship

ATLANTA—Evans C. Anyanwu, a senior at Frank H. Morell High School in Irvington, just made 150 high-achieving acquaintances from across the U.S., received a scholarship for college and got a preview of the 1996 Olympic Games venues—all in just a few days.

Anyanwu joined 150 other high school seniors for three days, April 25-28 at the Coca-Cola Scholars National Competition in Atlanta, home of the 1996 Centennial Summer Olympic Games. The scholars also had an exclusive tour of Coca-Cola Olympic City, a 12-acre Olympic-themed attraction.

In addition, he found out he will start college in the Fall with a \$20,000 Coca-Cola scholarship to study at any accredited college or university in the United States.

The Coca-Cola Scholars came to Atlanta for interviews with leaders in education, business, government and law. Scholars are evaluated on the basis of leadership in their schools and communities, academic achievements and motivation to succeed.

"Coca-Cola Scholars are tomorrow's leaders. They are academic achievers and have a proven commitment to community service," said Sandy Williams, Chairman of the Board of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and President, Corning Coca-Cola.



Pictured above Evans takes a look at the model of the Olympic village.

Bottling Company, Corning, N.J.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation annually awards \$1,500,000 scholarships and 100 \$4,000 scholarships to high school seniors nationwide. The 1996 Coca-Cola Scholars were chosen from more than 122,000 applicants.

This Week in Black History

MAY 22
1940—Bernard Shaw, journalist and principal Washington anchor for CNN is born in Chicago, Ill.
1948—Hartem Renaissance poet and author Claude McKay dies in Chicago, Ill.
1959—Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. becomes the first African-American Major General in the U.S. Air Force.
1967—Langston Hughes, noted poet, dies in New York City.
1968—Bill Cosby, star of *I Spy*, receives an Emmy for best actor in a dramatic series, the first African-American in the category.



Louis Gossett, Jr.

MAY 23
1844—Charles Edmund Nash, first African-American representative to the U.S. House of Representatives from Louisiana, is born in Opelousas, La.
1900—Civil War hero Sergeant William H. Carney of the 54th Massachusetts Colored Infantry becomes the first African-American Congressional Medal of Honor winner.
1921—Shuffle Along, the first of popular series of musicals featuring all-African-American casts, opens at the 52nd Street Music Hall in New York City.
1961—Twenty-seven Freedom Riders are arrested in Jackson, Miss.
1975—Comedian Jackie "Moms" Mabley dies in White Plains, N.Y.

MAY 24
1581—Paul Quinn College is chartered in the State of Texas.



Miles Davis

1937—Jazz saxophonist Archie Shepp is born in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.
1944—Patricia Louise Holt, better known as Pat LaBelle, is born in Philadelphia, Pa.
1954—Peter Marshall Morrey is installed as president of the New York County Medical Society, the first African-American physician to head an AMA affiliate.
1993—Hal McKee is named manager of the Kansas City Royals.

May 25

1878—Tap dancing legend Bill "Bojangles" Robinson is born in Richmond, Va.
1905—Author Dorothy Barrett (later Wesley) is born in Warren, Va.
1919—Millionaire Madame C. J. Walker dies.
1926—Historian and author of *When Harlem Was in Vogue* David Levering Lewis is born.

1943—Actress Leslie Uggams is born in Washington Heights, N.Y.

1926—Jazz trumpeter Miles Davis is born in Alton, Ill.

1968—Ruth A. Lucas is promoted to colonel in the U.S. Air Force, the first African-American woman to achieve this rank.

1936—Actor Louis Gossett, Jr. is born in Brooklyn, N.Y.

1941—A race riot begins in East St. Louis, Ill. After four days of rioting, one African-American is killed.

1968—The Supreme Court orders schools to present a realistic desegregation plan immediately.

1944—Slager Gladys Knight is born in Atlanta, Ga.

1974—Cicely Tyson wins two Emmy awards for best actress in a special and best actress in a drama, and Richard Pryor wins an Emmy for writing.

1981—Jazz pianist Mary Lou Williams dies in Durham, N.C.

1944—Slager Gladys Knight is born in Atlanta, Ga.

1974—Cicely Tyson wins two Emmy awards for best actress in a special and best actress in a drama, and Richard Pryor wins an Emmy for writing.

1981—Jazz pianist Mary Lou Williams dies in Durham, N.C.

DREAMS do come through



Debutante Kerine Mackason and escort LeMar Jones.

by Charli Holmes

MONMOUTH—The Monmouth County Cotillion celebrated its 46th annual scholarship and 36th annual escort awards, Saturday, May 4, at the Heaver auditorium, Long Branch middle school, Long Branch, N.J. This year's theme was "Dreams."

This year's theme epitomized the beauty of the cotillion. It was not only dreamy, but a fantasy came true. The cotillion was a beautiful display of

poise, grace and sophistication. This was the first year the cotillion was able to give each participating senior a \$250 award. The students raised over \$32,000 in ads and ticket sales.

The cotillion provided a selection of vocal performances by debutantes and escorts. The Debutante Specialty Dance was choreographed by Mrs. Patricia Wilds and the Debutante and Presenters Waltz was choreographed by Mr. Raymond Williams.

The escorts entertained the audience with a step-dance routine. The cotillion party was organized by the booklet committee chaired by Judith A. Russell.

Guest speaker for the cotillion was Jacqueline Williams, of Philadelphia, Pa. and Thomas S. Smith, Jr., of Ashbury Park. Mistress of Ceremonies was Ms. Portia Williams and Mrs. Corine McGee. Chairperson for this year's cotillion was Mrs. Barbara Fisher and debutante chairperson was Mrs. Pauline Smith.

Cotillion King and Queen and first place cotillion scholarship award recipients were escort LeMar James Braxton, Middletown, N.J. and debutante Kerine Renee Mackason, Long Branch, N.J. Each received a scholarship award of \$2,500.

\$300,000 available to high school senior artists

MIAMI, FL—Nearly \$300,000 is available to high school senior artists through the 1996-97 Arts Recognition and Talent Search (ARTS) program. Annual program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts (NFAA), ARTS allows young artists to assess their abilities against a national standard and has often served as a stepping stone for future careers.

The organization accepts application in eight categories: Dance, music, Jazz, musical/classical/vocalist photography, theatre, visual arts and writing. Artists are eligible if they are 17 or 18 years old. To get an application call 800-970-ART. Early deadline for ARTS is June 1 and carries a fee of \$25, with regular deadline on October 1, which carries a \$35 fee.

Applications available for a \$1,500 scholarship

NEWARK—Applications are now available for a \$1,500 scholarship award presented by Newark Metropolitan Business and Professional Women, Inc. (Newark Metro BPW) to female high school students.

Eligible students must have been accepted by a recognized college or university, be a Newark resident or attend school in Newark, exhibit academic achievement and financial

need. In addition, applicants must present letters of recommendation from one of their teachers and a guidance counselor.

Application forms have been mailed to Newark High School guidance counselors. They must be completed in full and returned on or before June 1, 1996 to Rhonda Kaslow Fischer, City of Newark, Room B28, 920 Broad Street, Newark, NJ 07102.


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"This measure is just another tool
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 ing." Imprevudito said.

"A license to drive should not be
 license to drink," Caraballo said.

The measure, formally introduced Feb-
 ruary 22 was approved by a 7 to 0 vote

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The measure, formally introduced February 22, was approved by a 7 to 0 vote.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Billboard

MONDAYS THRU THURSDAYS
Listens to WLIB 1150 AM for "The New WLIB Morning Show," sign on to 10 a.m. "The New G.B.E." with host Tony Brown's "Journal," 2 to 5 p.m., and "Inside the Sportsbook" with Larry Brown, 5 to 6 p.m. For more info call 212-447-1000.

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS
Listens to WLIB 1150 AM for "Dialogue with Dinkins" with host David Dinkins, 1 to 2 p.m. For more info call 212-447-1000.

THRU MAY 28
MILLBURN—Call Me Monday by Irving Berlin starring Leslie Uggams at the Paper Mill Playhouse. For more info call 908-249-5560.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The Screened in Forch Crossroads Theatre. For more info call 908-249-5560.

NEW BRUNSWICK—The paintings of Emami Silva will be featured at the Crossroads Gallery. For more info call 908-249-5561, ext. 13.

THRU JUNE 2
NEW YORK—"Explorations in the City of Light: African-American Artists in Paris, 1945-1965" will be displayed at the Studio Museum in Harlem. For more info call 212-864-4500.

NEW BRUNSWICK—Twisted at the George Street Playhouse. For more info call 246-7717.

THRU JUNE 8
NEWARK—"Win All Deliberate Speed: Ravishing Race & Education" a historical perspective on desegregation and education, at Ajiya. For more info call 201-643-6877.

NEW YORK—George Gee and his Make Believe Ballroom Orchestra will perform at the George Street Playhouse. For more info call 718-956-8482.

MAY 22 AND 23
NEW YORK—South African Jazz Legends and Hugh Masekela at O.E. 5 at 8 and 10 p.m. For more info call 212-243-4940.

FRIDAY, MAY 24
ATLANTIC CITY—Big Band Dance Party at The Grand For ticket info call TicketMaster at 800-736-1420.

MAY 24 THRU JUNE 9
NEW BRUNSWICK—The Blacksheep Theatre Company presents *Beaufort* at Alice Tully Hall at 8 p.m. For more info call 212-721-6500.

SATURDAY, MAY 25
QUEENS, NY—The International Arts Festival auditions continue with African Poetry Theatre at 176-03 Jamaica Avenue from 1 to 4 p.m. For more info call 718-638-6700.

NEW YORK—Lincoln Center Community Arts Project presents Tap Extravaganza '96 New York Tap Dance Week at Alice Tully Hall at 8 p.m. For more info call 212-721-6500.

MAY 28 THRU 30
NEW YORK—SOB presents the new jazz diva Rachelle Ferrell at 8 and 10 p.m. For more info call 212-243-4940.

MAY 28 THRU JUNE 2
NEW YORK—Jazz Trumpeter Nicholas Payton promotes "Gumbo Nouveau" party at Village Vanguard at 9:30 and 11:30 p.m. For more info call 212-255-4037.

The Cardinal and The Squirrel warns of gun dangers



HOLLYWOOD—Dr. Rosamuel Dawkins Jr. can now add author to his long list of accomplishments. He recently became co-author and publisher of *The Cardinal and The Squirrel: The Birthday Story*, a new children's book that educates the reader about the dangers of playing with guns, and respect for the environment. "In my profession I see too much pain and suffering. Our young people are forced to contend with issues like violence and child abuse all too often. I felt compelled to make some sort of literary contribution to address some of the concerns our young people have." The book was co-authored by Theaury K. Green an independent TV producer and videographer. Green says, "We want our books to educate children of all ages, races, and religious backgrounds." For more information on *The Cardinal and The Squirrel* call 704-333-3389.

Kirk Franklin brings music and God to the people

by Kelly Howard

Gospel music over the years has enjoyed a long and interesting relationship with a wide and varied audience. No one can deny the cultural and spiritual influence that this rich and truly African-American art form has had on people.

As gospel's first artist to achieve platinum success with a debut recording, Kirk Franklin has broken barriers, crossed musical boundary lines and achieved unprecedented success. With his first album, *Kirk Franklin and The Family* and its smash single "Why We Sing," this 26-year-old singer has opened up a new way for people to see and hear gospel music.

Staying true to the message and faith of gospel music, Franklin's songs are backed with an upbeat, R&B/Pop Hop vibe appealing to the masses.

Many such artists who've had mainstream success have used it to enhance their crossover appeal. Not necessarily so for Franklin.

"Ninety-five percent of the people who do urban music and listen to urban music came through the church," said Franklin. "I think about people are reminded where they came from with (my) music."

Since its release, *Kirk Franklin and The Family* has remained atop the gospel, contemporary Christian, urban, R&B, and video charts, and with their recent release *Whatcha Lookin' 4*, his success is continuing. *Whatcha Lookin' 4* is a total spiritual experience from beginning to end, with the tempo beats and a sure-fire message, this is another platinum-ready project with something for everyone.

With his artistically produced albums, this native Dallas/Ft. Worth area



Franklin is a long way from when his aunt introduced him to the piano at the age of four.

An avid church-goer, Franklin's musical passion began as a young child, and according to his mother goes as far back as to when he was a baby.

"I was offered my first contract when I was nine, but my mother thought I was too young," tells Franklin. "I was a minister of music at my church by the time I was eleven."

Despite the strong background within the church Franklin went through the normal rebellious stages of puberty and it took the tragic death of a friend for him to fully place his life on the path of God and music.

"Growing up I kind of got into trouble running the streets," said Franklin. "When a friend of mine got killed when I was 15, I became serious about my relationship with God. I gave my life to him and then I became more serious about my music."

Franklin is thankful that the success he's enjoying is bringing a new level of respect to gospel saying, "This is not music that we do to try to be popular. No one is trying to be a sex symbol and movie stars. This is music that has to do with a love relationship with God. Anybody can have that."

The Blues: Album Cover Art

Edited by Graham Marsh and Barrie Lewis



Album covers featured in the book

Born in the Mississippi Delta and universally recognized as among the great contributors of twentieth-century American culture, this groundbreaking musical form has become one of the most popular and beloved in the world. In the late '50s and '60s, its popularity was at its zenith, and with the proliferation of recordings came album covers that were as evocative and classic as the music itself, and captured the feeling—the melancholy and triumph of the blues. The soul and

attitude of the great blues performers—from John Lee Hooker and Muddy Waters to Howlin' Wolf and Bessie Smith—were vividly depicted in artwork that provided a visual accompaniment to the rollicking, rumbling music. *The Blues: Album Cover Art* features 250 of wonderful covers, showcasing these and other great musical luminaries. A memorable visual companion for both music and design lovers, this engaging volume captures all the triumph, magnitude, and spirit of a legendary musical genre.

Graham Marsh is a London-based magazine art director, illustrator, and journalist. He is the co-author of three related *Chronicle Books* titles, *Blue Note*, *California Cool*, and *New York Hot*. Barrie Lewis has been collecting blues album covers for over 30 years. *Keith Briggs* is a music journalist who writes for *Rhythm and Blues Magazine*.

NJPCA gets \$1.8 mil federal grant

NEWARK—A \$1.8 million grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce to complete construction of a public plaza adjacent to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPCA) was announced recently in ceremonies on the 12-acre site in downtown Newark. The grant, combined with \$2 million awarded in April 1995, brings the EDA commitment to Theater Square to \$3.8 million.

A landscaped public plaza located in front of the Arts Center, Theater

Square is designed to be a gathering place, a venue for outdoor events, a focal point of activity and a centerpiece for civic pride in Newark, according to Lawrence P. Goldman, President and CEO of NJPCA.

"Theater Square has already become the place where the city meets the Arts Center," Goldman commented. "Leaders from the private and public sectors, patrons and students all begin tours of NJPCA from the spot where Theater Square will come alive in the Fall of 1997. By providing such

generous support for this project, the EDA sends a message, loud and clear: the community building we do at Theater Square is a vital part of the future of Newark and indeed of our entire region."

"We are also deeply moved," Mayor James said, "by the knowledge that this grant is part of the legacy of my friend, our late Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown, who was fully committed to this endeavor and who had expressed on several occasions

See NJPCA page 10

Seventh Annual Genesis Festival at Crossroads

NEW BRUNSWICK—Crossroads Theatre Company will present its seventh annual Genesis Festival, a celebration of new voices in African-American theatre. This two-week series of staged readings, sponsored by AT&T, begins Wednesday, May 29 and closes Sunday, June 8.

Established during the 1989-1990 season, The Genesis Festival, under the direction of Sydne Mahone, Crossroads' Director of Play Development, is a new play series devoted to play development through readings and

workshops. The festival closes each Crossroads season and was born out of Crossroads' commitment to the evolution and maturation of new works by African-American artists.

This year, Genesis 1996 features 9 events over 11 days, including drama, comedy, music, dance and poetry.

The festival opens at 8 p.m., Wednesday, May 29 with a reading of *Forch Monkey*, a fresh and provocative new play by Kim Druher which uses a lawnmower as the central metaphor for the conflicts of race relations in America.

On Thursday, May 30 at 8 p.m., *Sanango* by Azade will be read. An

African folk myth is a contemporary setting. *Sanango* follows the life and journey of a Former Daughter. A pregnant woman in search of a name and a legacy for her unborn child, Azade is a 1996 graduate of the Creative Writing M.F.A. Program at Brown University.

A reading of *Wedding Dance* by Dominic A. Taylor will take place on Friday, May 31 at 8 p.m. Directed by Ozzie Jones, *Wedding Dance* is about the hip-hop marriage of urban realism and idealistic romance. It is a fresh and humorous look at how young people experience romantic love in the "hood."



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Business Calendar

MAY 22 AND 30

METUCHEN—"How to Survive in Today's Economy" seminar for business owners and retirees at Cryan's Restaurant 7 p.m. For more info call 1-800-332-0095 or 908-434-4795.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

JERSEY CITY—Hudson County Community College's Center for Business and Industry is offering a free workshop to help minority and women-owned businesses, from 9 a.m. to noon. For more info call 201-714-2107.

MONDAY, JUNE 3

SOMERVILLE—Regional Business Partnership Small Business Golf Outing at Pine Hollow Golf Club For more info call Mike Baratti at 201-242-6371, ext. 222.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

SOMERSET—Somerset County Chamber of Commerce Business Card Exchange from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Somerset County Vocational Technical Schools. For more info call 908-725-1552.

MONTCLAIR—Urban League's Network hosts financial management seminar on entrepreneurship at 6:30 p.m. For more info call 201-748-9438.

JUNE 10 THRU 14

WASHINGTON, DC—Successful Business to Business Product Management seminar at the AMA Management Center. For more info call 1-800-262-3699. For hotel reservations call the Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill at 202-942-1555 or the Washington Court Hotel at 202-928-2100.

MONDAY, JULY 10

SECAUCUS—Expo 96, New Jersey Minority Purchasing Council Marketing & Business Expo Seminars and Workshops at the Sheraton Meadowlands Hotel. Trade Fair at the Meadowlands Convention Center. For info call 212-522-7632.

Calendar listings should be sent two weeks in advance to ensure publication.

Send your business news to City News at 144 North Ave. Plainfield, NJ 07060

Black companies hit record \$13 billion in 1995 revenues

NEW YORK—The *Black Enterprise* 100s—the nation's 100 largest black-owned industrial/service companies and 100 top automobile dealers—broke the \$11 billion gross revenue barrier for the second consecutive year.

With combined 1995 sales of \$13.02 billion, these companies recorded an 11.80 percent increase in revenues, according to the exclusive B.E. 24th Annual Report on Black Enterprise.

In the June 1996 edition of *Black Enterprise* Magazine, the report is recognized as the authoritative ranking of the nation's largest black-owned companies.

The B.E. 100s companies posted a 6.6 percent increase in employment growth—51,000 employees in 1995.

In its exclusive report, *Black Enterprise* reported that the B.E. 100s companies, despite a business environment that included attacks on affirmative action and minority set-aside programs, an increasingly tight-fisted market on business loans and pressure from all sides to downsize or liquidate, came through with a third consecutive post-recession year of solid growth.

The B.E. 24th Annual Report on Black business also includes:

- The ranking of the 25 largest black-owned banks and savings & loan associations; the ranking of the 10 largest black-owned insurance firms; the ranking of the 15 largest black-owned investment banks.

"Once again, the B.E. 100s companies exemplify the important impact of black business, not only on the African-American community but the national and even global economy," said *Black Enterprise* publisher Earl G. Graves.

"This was the realized vision of the late Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. Thus, it is more than fitting that his life be celebrated in our cover story for this issue," he added.

New York-based TLC Beatrice PainWebber to pay New Jersey \$149,842 for securities violation

NEWARK—The brokerage house, PainWebber Inc. will pay the state nearly \$150,000 to settle allegations that its New Jersey salesmen engaged in fraudulent sales pitches for limited partnerships, Division of Consumer Affairs Director Mark S. Her said.

The action brought by the Division of Consumer Affairs' Bureau of Securities centers on the failure of PainWebber to supervise brokers who engaged in fraudulent sales of limited partnership investments between 1986 and 1992. Consumer Affairs also alleged that PainWebber produced sales material that misled investors about risks and other key factors.

A total of 5,131 state residents invested \$33,702,953 in PainWebber produced sales material that misled investors about risks and other key factors.

The allegations in this case were that New Jerseyans were induced to invest in limited partnerships that were falsely described as "low risk" and

investments banks.

"The funds will be used to help investors learn how to make informed decisions about the investment professionals they work with and the investments they make, according to Frank L. Widmann, acting chief of the Bureau of Securities.

International Holdings Inc. held on its first-place spot on the B.E. Industrial Service 100 list with \$2.1 billion in revenues. This marks the first time in the listing's 24-year history that a B.E. 100s company cracked the \$2 billion glass ceiling.

John J. Publishing Company of Chicago, Ill., remained the second-highest company on the list, posting revenues of \$316 million in 1995. L&E also marked the first time that many B.E. 100s companies and auto dealers grossed more than \$16 million in revenues.

"Ideally suited for conservative investors," Her said. "This settlement resolves these issues."

Of the money PainWebber has agreed to pay the state, \$100,000 is slated for civil penalties and \$49,842 for investor education.

The funds will be used to help investors learn how to make informed decisions about the investment professionals they work with and the investments they make, according to Frank L. Widmann, acting chief of the Bureau of Securities.

Freeholders urge enhanced SID for Monmouth urban areas

FREEHOLD—The Monmouth County Board of Chosen Freeholders adopted a resolution at its May 9th meeting urging state legislation to encourage commercial and industrial development in older urban areas by combining the best provisions in two existing programs.

By taking the certain beneficial provisions of the Urban Enterprise Zone Act, including sales tax abatement program, and applying them to the existing Special Improvement District (SID) Towns like Freehold Borough and Red Bank could benefit from the proposed new status.

An SID is a special district in which taxpayers are assessed an additional program which is then dedicated to a program designed to improve commerce and industry within the district.

The Urban Enterprise Zone Act was enacted to attract commercial and industrial development to older urban areas as a means of eliminating urban blight. The primary feature of the Urban Enterprise Zone (UEZ) is a 3 percent sales tax on retail sales, rather than the 6 percent sales tax in effect through most of the state. Asbury Park has been designated as an UEZ.

In introducing the resolution, Freeholder Theodore J. Naroznick said that applying 3 percent sales tax to the SID was a logical move. "In an Urban Enterprise Zone, a businessman or woman makes no additional contribution to the Zone other than their investment in their business. In a Special Improvement District, the businessman or woman makes the same

investment in the business and, on top of that, is assessed additional taxes to help promote the district."

"When you consider that towns with an SID are usually older, urban areas it only seems fair that they enjoy the same sales tax benefit as the UEZ," Naroznick noted.

The owners of commercial property within the District in Freehold are assessed an additional \$2.19 per \$100 of assessed valuation. In 1995, the special assessment raised \$112,854. The Partnership raised an additional \$50,000 from the fund-raising events.

In Red Bank the SID assessment is \$271 per \$100 of asset valuation with a \$236,140 in 1995.

"By providing this tax benefit to SIDs, it will enable the districts to provide funds for intensive infrastructure improvements," Naroznick emphasized. "Improvement that would further enhance the attractiveness of the commercial areas in these older towns. Improvements to run down properties within the districts would generate additional tax revenues for the municipalities."

"Government rarely has an opportunity to directly help promote the self-improvement of an urban area. The enactment of legislation to enhance the SID is one of those rare opportunities," Freeholder Naroznick concluded.

A copy of the resolution adopted by the Board will be sent to Governor Whitman and all the legislators representing Monmouth County.

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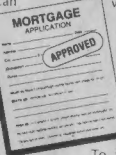
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Gloucester	33,120	Somerset	43,680
Hudson	28,240	Union	39,520
Middlesex	43,680	Warren	30,880

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African-American Heritage Parade to honor Ron Brown



Les Combs, Secretary of the Newark African-American Heritage Parade.

NEWARK—The legacy of the late U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown will be recognized at the 1996 African-American Heritage Parade on Sunday May 26. At the request of Newark Mayor Sharpe James, organizers of the annual procession agreed to posthumously honor Secretary Brown, who died in a tragic plane crash while on a diplomatic/economic mission in Croatia.

"I commend the organizers of the

African-American Heritage Parade's observance on paying homage to the great cultural legacy of the African-American heritage in Newark, America and the world. However, I am especially proud to salute them this year for posthumously honoring Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. The tribute will convey a special message to Newark citizens of all ages, especially our youth."

Shortly before Brown's untimely

death, Donald Bernard, Sr., parade chairman, reported that the parade committee was working on bringing him to Newark as the parade's 1996 Grand Marshal. "Honoring Ron Brown will give this year's parade a unique meaning. It will convey a special message to our youth and allow us to reflect on our contribution to the community. What Ron Brown means to all of us is inestimable. His quiet pursuit of substance and excellence is a model we recommend to all people of all groups."

"Characteristic of his loving, kind and compassionate nature, Secretary

Brown perished trying to bring social and economic stability, and real hope to that war-torn land. Moreover, Ron Brown's legacy and link to the City of Newark will endure.

"It was in Newark that Mr. Brown, as the head of the Democratic Party, met to map out President Bill Clinton's victorious election strategy. He is gone, but Ron Brown will never be forgotten," Mayor James noted.

The Parade Committee will also honor three individuals who have made a cultural and/or human development contribution to the black com-

munity.

The awarders are Ralph and Catherine Steele of Irvington and Michele T. Ralph, senior VP of First Union Bank in Newark. Special merit awards will be awarded to Dr. Robert L. Johnson, M.D., F.A.P.A., director of adolescent and young adult medicine at UMDNJ, and recent Pulitzer Prize winner George Walker of Montclair.

Parade festivities conclude with the free African-American Heritage Cultural Festival scheduled for May 24 through 27. For details, please 201-642-5051 or 201-642-8760.

Bodies

Continued from page 1

Newark pays the county approximately \$40 million a year to provide certain services within the city borders, including maintenance and policing of parks under county jurisdiction, and the city needs to see more return on its tax money.

NJPAC

Continued from page 7

sions how much he looked forward to being with us on opening night."

"The New Jersey Performing Arts Center has benefited from an extraordinary public-private partnership that will contribute to Newark's revitalization, enhance the cultural life of the state and provide needed jobs for those in the performing arts and support services," commented U.S. Senator Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ).

Congressman Donald M. Payne (D-10) said: "The well-being of Newark is a matter not only of local and regional concern, but of national importance. When a nationally-recognized city like Newark begins to regain its economic and social health, the benefits radiate far beyond its borders."

As a symbol of the continuity between Newark's past and future, architectural details saved from the historic Military Park Hotel will be installed in Theater Square.

Heros

Continued from page 1

down and also recovered a child. During these rescue attempts the fire was burning out of control and the firefighters risked severe injury and death in order to rescue the children trapped inside.

Of the four children rescued at the two fires only one survived, but this did not alter the valorous efforts of the firefighters involved," said The Two Hundred Club president, Walter Beyerman.

Elizabeth Police Officer James J. Malone, Jr. pursued and subdued an armed suspect without loss of life to either the suspect or the officers involved. The suspect turned to fire a gun during the foot pursuit, was shot in the shoulder by Officer Malone which caused the suspect to drop two fully loaded 9mm handguns.

The nine Valor Award Recipients were honored at The Two Hundred Club's Annual Luncheon held at L'Affaire Restaurant on Friday, May 10th in Mountainside. Each year, the members of the club gather to recognize and praise police and firefighters who have put their lives on the line to protect the safety and well-being of citizens in Union County.

Revaluation impact

Continued from page 1

"Billions of dollars worth of property within the city of Newark serves the entire region, throughout the state, while Newark residents get to live with the taxes, the traffic, the pollution and provide services to all the suburban commuters and visitors," explained Tucker.

According to Tucker, to top it all off, Newark pays the county \$40 million a year for property taxes. "Not only is that a much higher than any other municipality in Essex, but it is far more than any payment by a municipality to a county in the state of New Jersey," he continued.

The truth is that Newark is truly unique, bearing a unique regional burden. We are, therefore, entitled to a unique solution to the revaluation problem," Tucker indicated. "Since no other municipality within the state of NJ is affected in the same way that Newark is and revaluation makes the injustice worse." The Councilman said special legislation is required to address the issue of property tax equalization, because although "revaluation will have different impacts on different wards, it is certain that the entire city will be seriously affected by it.

Charity care bill

Continued from page 1

dollars.

"It's time to put this issue behind us," Senate President Donald DiFrancesco said. "We want to get this thing done."

Whitman said hospitals that have

been without a charity care payment

"Will be made whole" by August.

"She said the state will send an initial payment of about \$26 million to the hospitals May 24, this Friday. The New Jersey Hospital Association

sued, demanding compensation.

State Health Commissioner Len Bishan said he will immediately begin to work on the managed care network option, which he said would first concentrate on frequent charity care users. He said the network would probably begin as a pilot project in a few counties.

"I'm very happy that after six months the governor and the legislature have finally been able to pass and have the governor sign charity care funding," said Reverend Reginald Jackson.

"I am at the same time very frustrated because we still find ourselves without permanent funding solution. The Minister's Council will be calling upon the governor to appoint immedi-

ately a task force to come up with a permanent funding solution, so that two years from now the state does not find itself in this same situation."

Lawmakers from both parties said they voted for the bill because it was the only game in town.

"I have some very serious problems with this legislation," said Sen. Ronald Rice, D-Newark. "I don't think we can afford to take the amount of money this takes out of the unemployment fund. I oppose it because of the way it has been done. But I will support it because of need and necessity."

Gary Carter, president of the New Jersey Hospitals Association, said hospitals will be happy to get a check after missing five charity care pay-

ments. However, he said hospitals need more than what is allocated, and had wanted a permanent funding source.

"There is no funding beyond 1997. And of course, the legislators say, well, trust us, we'll do this," Carter said. "Coincidentally, it happens after an election, and so our sense is we'll be back in the same fiasco that we are this year."

The bulk of the money—\$660 million—will come from unemployment taxes, which have helped fund charity care since 1992. Business and labor interests opposed tapping this fund, and legislative leaders vow to find enough cost-cutting measures to end reliance on the fund.



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